

C.H.O.G.M. Preliminary Briefing Pack



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Planned Events List

This is a list of planned protest/activist/NGO events around the CHOGM protests. It is not complete or exhaustive mainly because a lot of organisations haven't finalised what they're doing, and events will depend on numbers as to exactly what happens on the day.

This page is followed by 'official' events around CHOGM.

Wednesday, October 3rd

7am: Blockade of Commonwealth Business Forum in Melbourne. Hilton Hotel, 192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne.

Friday, October 5th

Morning: Blockade of DEETYA Office in Brisbane City

12pm: Queensland Council of Unions march.
Queer Block Convergence

Evening: Convergence for CHOGM

Saturday, October 6th

6am: Blockade of CHOGM (Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre)

9am: People's March. Peaceful march from Roma St. parkland to Musgrave Park. (i.e. missing the blockade at the Convention Centre by two streets on each side)

6pm-7:30pm: Jubilee 2000 Drop the Debt Chain of Hands

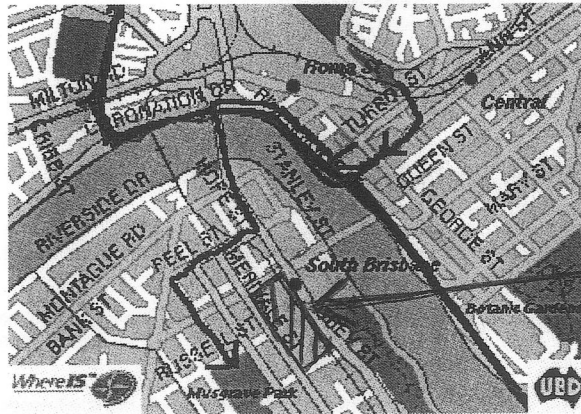
Sunday, October 7th

All day: CHOGM Counter Conference



ty now! | No new WTO round! | Respect human rights! | Prevent climate change! | Cancel Third World debt

March Route



CHOGM

PEOPLE'S
MARCH
ROUTE



COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

Parallel Events

Summary of events

Related events associated with CHOGM 2001 include:

- [Commonwealth People's Centre](#)
- [Commonwealth People's Festival](#)
- [Commonwealth People's Day](#)
- [Commonwealth Youth Forum](#)
- [Commonwealth Business Forum](#)
- [47th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference](#)
- [Commonwealth Editors' Symposium](#)
- [Commonwealth Local Government Forum](#)
- [Commonwealth Association of Planners Forum](#)
- [Commonwealth Forum on Cultural Diversity](#)
- [Commonwealth Photographic Awards](#)

Commonwealth People's Centre **2-8 October, Brisbane, Queensland**

Alongside CHOGM 2001 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre will be the Commonwealth People's Centre - a major feature of the Commonwealth People's Festival.

The People's Centre will be a vibrant showcase, discussion forum and market place, continuing a tradition which began at the 1997 Edinburgh CHOGM. It will be open to the public and special interest groups and will feature exhibitions, displays, workshops, seminars, performances and presentations.

The People's Centre will provide non-government organisations with opportunities to celebrate their work and achievements, to learn from one another, work together and communicate their work to the people of Brisbane, the world's media, and delegates attending CHOGM 2001.

It is above all a chance for people, associations and organisations to show their support for the values, principles and ideals of the modern Commonwealth and play their part in developing and strengthening them.

For further information visit the [Commonwealth People's Centre and Festival](#) site.

Commonwealth People's Festival **2-8 October, Brisbane, Queensland**

Everyone is welcome to celebrate and experience the diverse cultures of the Commonwealth during the Commonwealth People's Festival.

Its theme, 'Connecting Communities', celebrates the Commonwealth's rich diversity, and is intended to stimulate discussion about the divides concerning the people of the Commonwealth at a grass roots level, and how to make the connections that will reduce or end them.

Ultimately, the festival will be what the Commonwealth's people and organisations bring to it. Public performances, ranging from large-scale concerts to solo displays and acts, are being staged at venues in and around Brisbane by artists from throughout the Commonwealth. Australia is expected to have a strong presence showcasing its diversity and the culture of Indigenous Australians.

The festival is being organised under the auspices of the Commonwealth Foundation by a Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Australian Government, Queensland State Government, Brisbane City Council, Commonwealth Journalists Association and a range of welfare, overseas aid and other non-government organisations.

Details of cultural and performance events, meetings and workshops are available from the [Commonwealth People's Festival](#) site.

Commonwealth People's Day **7 October, Brisbane, Queensland**

Another important feature of the Commonwealth People's Festival is Commonwealth People's Day, to be held on Sunday 7 October.

This special public event - a first for CHOGM - is being organised by the Queensland State Government and Brisbane City Council in conjunction with the Commonwealth Foundation.

For further information visit the [Queensland Government CHOGM](#) site.

Commonwealth Business Forum **3-5 October, Melbourne, Victoria**

<http://www.chogm2001.net/events/01.html#8>

To be held in Melbourne with the theme, 'New Economy, New Challenges, New Opportunities', the Commonwealth Business Forum will canvass business trends, review business practices and government policy issues. It is expected to provide new openings and opportunities for investment, trade and jobs growth.

Many of the 54 countries of the Commonwealth face overwhelming problems in social and economic development. The Business Forum is one mechanism by which the Commonwealth hopes to improve the economic position of member countries, and enhance the economic power of its people.

The Business Forum is expected to attract between 500 and 600 business people and Government representatives from throughout the Commonwealth, including up to 15 Heads of Government. The event is jointly organised by the Commonwealth Business Council and the Australian and Victorian governments.

Session topics include:

- the impact of new technology on old companies, and on strategies for successful competition;
- the lessons learned from public/private sector partnerships, and models of good practice;
- strategies for overcoming the digital divide;
- achieving economic growth within the parameters of sustainable development.

The Business Forum will report immediately to the Brisbane CHOGM. The Forum is one means by which the Commonwealth is fulfilling its commitment to open consultation on a broad range of issues. The 1999 Business Forum, held in Johannesburg, was concerned with the unequal benefits of globalisation. The Forum's report recommended strategies for achieving economic advancement with social development.

For further information visit the [Commonwealth Business Forum](#) site.

The 47th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference 2-14 September, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Australia is hosting the 47th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, an annual meeting of parliamentarians representing 140 states of the Commonwealth.

The aim of the Parliamentary Conference is to discuss parliamentary and political issues in an effort to improve international relations, the way parliaments work, and to broaden the understanding of members of the parliaments.

The conference commences in Melbourne then proceeds to Canberra, via Albury-Wodonga, following the 'federation trail'.

For further information visit the [Centenary of Federation](#) site.

Commonwealth Editors' Symposium 3-5 October, Brisbane, Queensland

The 3rd Pre-CHOGM Commonwealth Editors' Symposium is being staged by the Commonwealth Press Union and the Pacific Area Newspapers Publishers' Association. The editorial symposium is being held at the offices of Queensland Newspapers' *The Courier Mail*, and brings together Commonwealth editors from developing countries at the news, feature, political and economic level.

Given the importance of the High Level Review of the Commonwealth and the fact that many submissions have underlined the need for incorporating a reference to freedom of expression within the Harare Declaration, the proposed emphasis of the programme is on ethics, responsible journalism and working within a self-regulatory framework.

For further information visit the [Commonwealth Press Union](#) site.

Commonwealth Local Government Forum 3 October, Brisbane, Queensland

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum, established in 1995, works to promote and strengthen democratic local government across the Commonwealth.

The theme is 'Making Local Government Matter: Creating Commonwealth Partnerships in the 21st Century'.

The forum runs a variety of projects, focusing on local government capacity building, exchange of experience and other areas, with funding from national and international donor agencies. These are undertaken in association with our local members and other partner organisations.

For more information visit the [Commonwealth Local Government Forum](#) site.

Commonwealth Association of Planners Forum 6 October, Surfers Paradise

The Commonwealth Association of Planners will conduct a one day forum on 6 October at the Parkroyal Hotel, Surfers Paradise. It will follow the Royal Australian Planning Institute (Queensland) State Conference on 3-5 October under the theme 2001 - A Planning Odyssey.

The events will offer to professionals, government administrators and policy makers, technocrats and academics an insight and forum for debate about current concerns, trends and solutions to the accelerating change to urbanisation and globalisation of society.

The forum will further explore planning issues faced by many of the 54 Commonwealth countries, focusing on sustainable tourism and promoting sustainable communities in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Pacific and Caribbean.

For further information visit this website:
www.ast-marketing.com/RAP/conference2001.htm

Commonwealth Forum on Cultural Diversity **DIVERSITY MATTERS** **Brisbane 3-5 October**

This Forum, being staged jointly by the Commonwealth Institute and the Australian Multicultural Foundation, explores contemporary issues in the field of cultural diversity and promotes its inclusion as an integral part of the mainstream Commonwealth agenda.

The organisers believe strongly that there is a pressing imperative, as well as an exciting opportunity, for the Commonwealth to embrace the cultural diversity agenda as a significant element in its policy programme alongside development, good governance and human rights.

The Forum brings together international speakers from across the Commonwealth with acknowledged expertise in their fields. Structured in six key areas, the Forum focuses on: Public and Cultural Diversity, Policy, Leadership in a Multicultural Environment, Cross-Cultural Education, Productive Business and Diversity, Religion and Diversity, and the Media and Diversity.

The aims of the Forum are to highlight the significance of cultural diversity for the official Commonwealth and establish a network for future debate and collective action.

For further information, please visit the Commonwealth Institute site
www.commonwealth.org.uk

Commonwealth Photographic Awards **6 October-18 November 2001**

The winning entries of the annual Commonwealth Photographic Awards will on show at the Customs House Public Art Gallery in Brisbane from 6 October to 18 November 2001. The theme of the Awards is "Environment" and each photograph will be accompanied by a short paragraph written by the photographer explaining why the image interprets the theme. Many Commonwealth countries will be represented.

These Awards are organised by the [Commonwealth Press Union](#) and the [Commonwealth Broadcasting Association](#) and are supported by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation and the [Commonwealth Foundation](#).

Parallel Events
> [Summary of events](#)
[Partners](#)

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[Media Information](#) | [Protocol & Security](#) | [About Australia](#) | [Related Links](#)

This is a joint site between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Australian Government.

[Home](#)

Brisbane

Accessing the CBD during CHOGM 2001

Midnight Wednesday 3rd to midnight Tuesday 9 October

About CHOGM

Leaders from up to 54 member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations convene every two years at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). It is the Commonwealth's ultimate policy and decision making forum representing the interests of over 1.7 billion people worldwide.

The event brings large and small nations together on equal terms to discuss and devise solutions for a range of social and economic issues affecting the Commonwealth.

When it meets at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from October 6 to 9, it will become the largest assembly of world leaders ever held in Australia and the first CHOGM of the new millennium.

About 2500 delegates and up to 1000 media will focus the world's attention on Brisbane and Queensland. It's the perfect opportunity to showcase the best that Queensland and Australia has to offer in the way of hospitality, lifestyle, tourism and business opportunities.

The city will also be treated to a diverse and multicultural extravaganza from member countries across the globe during the Commonwealth People's Festival, from October 2 to 8.

Our responsibilities

The Australian Government, as the official host, together with the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council, share a responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for these international leaders and delegates.

The State is providing some essential services for CHOGM in traffic planning and logistics, public transportation, emergency services and medical responses.

However, there is also an equal responsibility to ensure that Brisbane continues to function as normally as possible during CHOGM and this is a prime objective of the Traffic Management Plan.

It has been based on security and public safety for all, whether international visitor or resident. It also reflects the minimum requirements necessary to deliver CHOGM and minimise the impact on Brisbane's inner-city precinct.

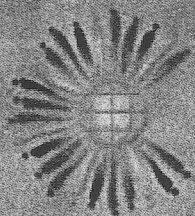
This is a collective responsibility that will require cooperation from all Australians to ensure the success of CHOGM 2001 in Brisbane.

Key points:

- Pedestrians will still have free access throughout the CBD except for designated CHOGM venues and the eastern footpath of Victoria Bridge.
- Public transport will be the easiest way to access the CBD for city workers and visitors during CHOGM, but avoid peak periods if possible and allow some extra time.
- There will be traffic 'crossover' points on controlled roads to maintain access around the CBD, but some delays will occur.
- Some streets will be temporarily converted to two-way for the CHOGM period.
- People will still be able to access most major carparks, hotels, shopping areas and clubs.

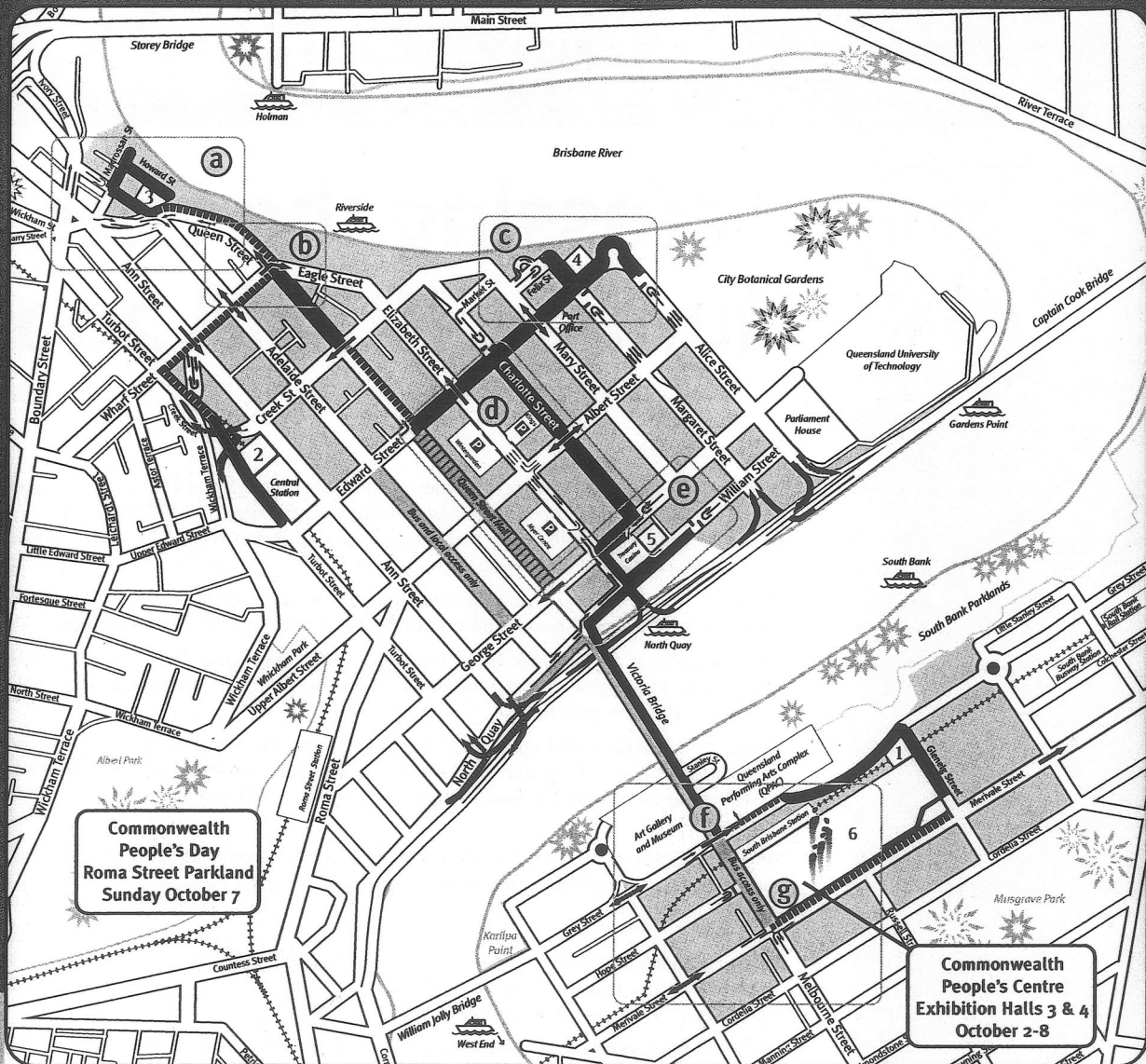


Queensland
Government



CHOGM

BRISBANE 2001



The information below is to inform Brisbane businesses and residents about the changed traffic conditions during CHOGM 2001 and how best to avoid potential delays. The details outlined will apply from midnight on Wednesday, October 3 to midnight on Tuesday, October 9.

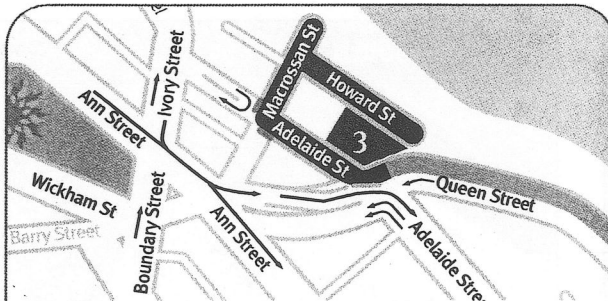
Legend

-  **CHOGM traffic precinct** – highlights areas of the CBD that will experience changed traffic conditions from October 4 to October 9.
-  **Controlled road** – for security purposes CHOGM venues and the streets near them will have controlled access to authorised vehicles only allowing secure transport of leaders and delegates. Pedestrian traffic will not be affected.
-  **Partially controlled road** – barrier divided to allow secure access to authorised CHOGM vehicles on one side and general traffic on the other.
-  **Bus access only** – roads that permit access to buses and authorised vehicles only.
-  **Vehicle checkpoint** – location where Police monitor access to controlled roads.

-  **Traffic crossover points** – intersections along controlled roads that permit vehicle crossing, under Police direction, when clear of CHOGM traffic.
-  **CBD access points** – normally available access points to the CBD.
-  **Traffic flow indicators** – One-way streets temporarily converted to accommodate two-way traffic flow.
- 1** **Designated CHOGM sites**
 - 1 Rydges Hotel
 - 2 Sheraton Hotel
 - 3 Marriott Hotel
 - 4 Stamford Plaza
 - 5 Conrad Hotel
 - 6 Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
-  **Parking**
-  **Barriers**
-  **Ferry stops**

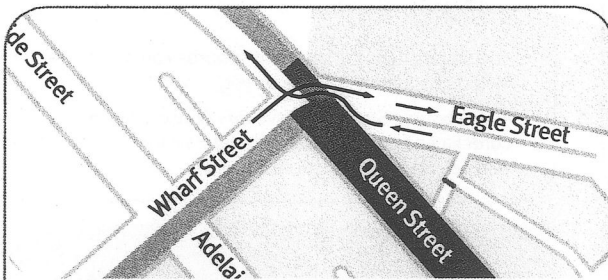
Traffic flow details

Ⓐ Intersection of Queen and Adelaide Streets



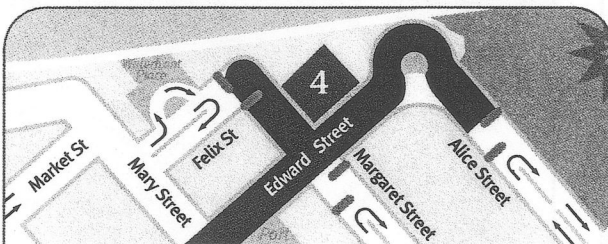
- (a) During the event, Queen Street will be partially controlled with outbound access for general traffic between Wharf Street and the Adelaide Street intersection. Traffic that normally enters the city via Queen Street can follow Adelaide and Wharf Streets to access the Riverside precinct or the centre of town.

Ⓑ Intersection of Queen, Wharf and Eagle Streets



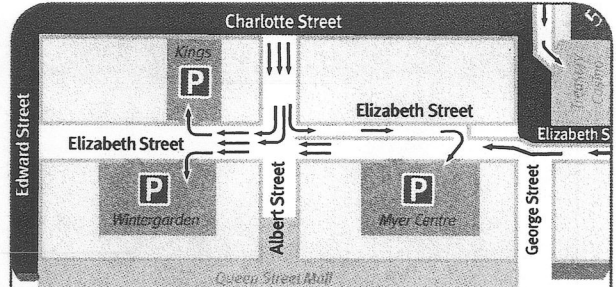
- (b) Traffic will have two-way access along Eagle Street. Wharf Street will be one-way towards Eagle Street with outbound access along Queen Street beyond Wharf Street.

Ⓒ Edward, Felix, Alice and Margaret Streets



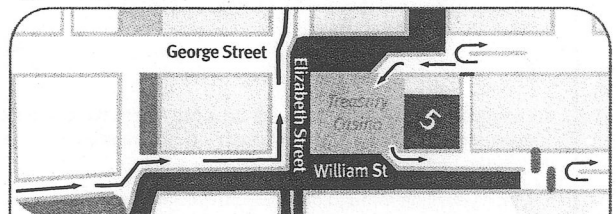
- (c) Edward Street and the bottom of Margaret Street will be controlled during the event with Alice Street becoming two-way between Edward and Albert Streets providing access for residents and commuters. Traffic that generally accesses the city via Margaret and Felix Streets can turn left into Albert Street and access the Riverside precinct via Mary Street. Felix Street will become two-way for the duration of the event allowing access to the Felix Street car park.

Ⓓ Access to Elizabeth Street car parks



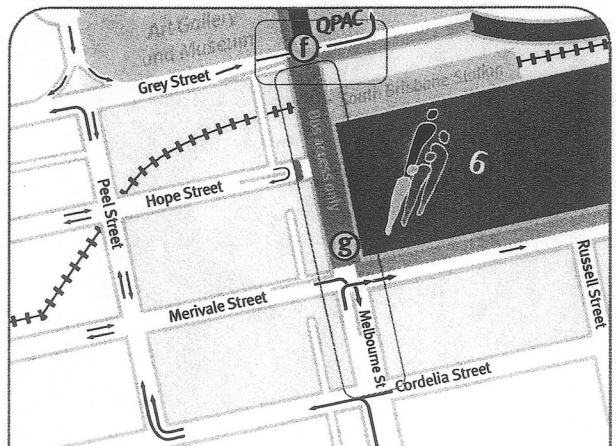
- (d) For the duration of the event, Elizabeth Street will become two-way between George and Albert Streets, permitting access to Elizabeth Street car-parking facilities via Albert Street. One lane will also be available via North Quay and William Street.

Ⓔ Access to the Treasury Casino carpark



- (e) The Casino will be accessible to patrons with local access to the Casino car park permitted via George Street. Exit will be under Police direction.

Ⓕ Ⓖ Access to South Brisbane and QPAC



South Brisbane will be accessible via Grey Street with pedestrians having access to this area via the western footpath of Victoria Bridge (adjacent to bus lane).

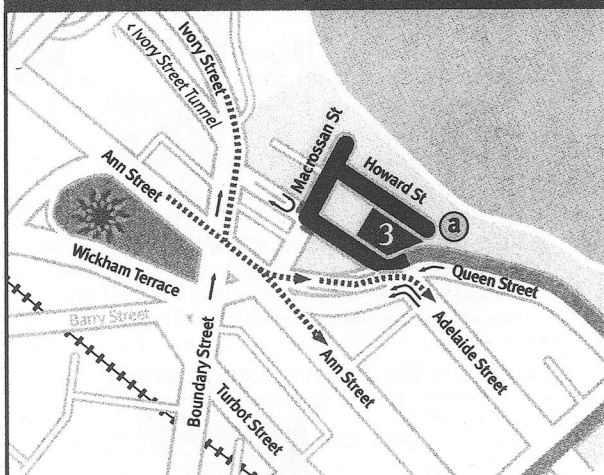
- (f) QPAC will be accessible via Grey Street only.
(g) During the event, Melbourne Street will be accessible to buses only between Cordelia and Grey Streets.

Brisbane

CHOGM2001

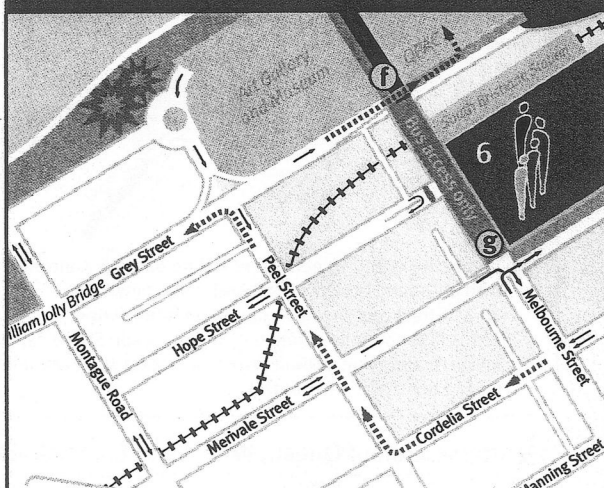
Suggested access routes

From the north side



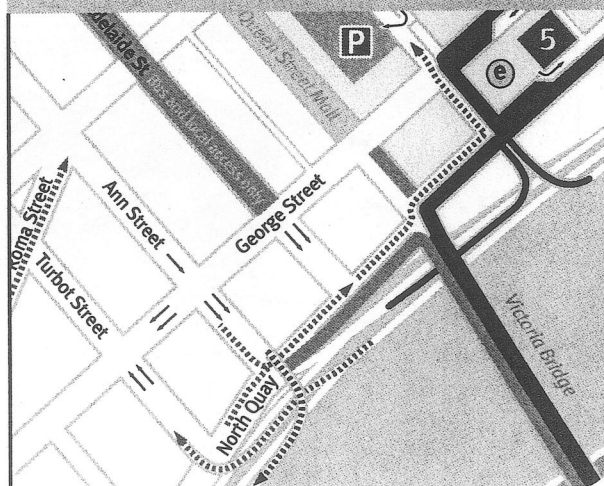
- Commuters from the northern suburbs can access the city most easily via Ann Street. Adelaide Street will act primarily as a bus corridor, but local traffic access is maintained.
- Those travelling through the Ivory Street tunnel will be able to follow Boundary Street and turn left into Ann Street. Minor road works will be done to allow this.

From the south side



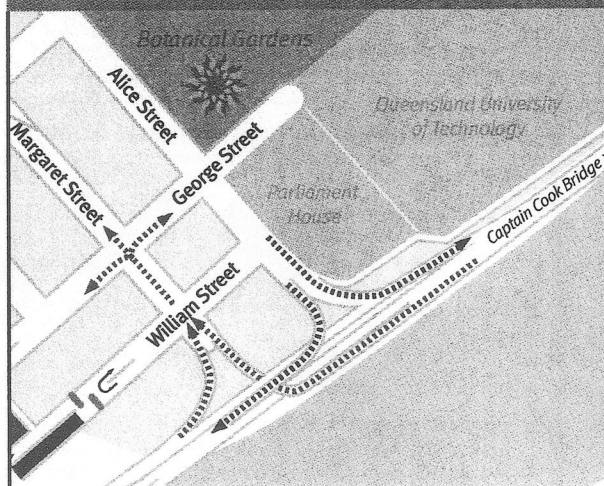
- Commuters from the southern suburbs can access the city via Melbourne Street and Grey Street.
- As Melbourne Street will have *Bus Access Only* between Cordelia and Grey Streets, commuters can reach Grey Street via Peel, turning left to access the city.

From the west side



- Commuters from the western suburbs can access the city via Coronation Drive, Milton Road and Roma Street.
- Although the top of Elizabeth Street will be partially controlled, vehicles will still have single lane access to Elizabeth Street via North Quay and William Street.

From the east side



- Commuters from the eastern suburbs will continue to access the city most easily via the Captain Cook Bridge and Margaret Street and Turbot Street off ramps.
- Conversely, commuters bound for the eastern suburbs can exit the city via the Alice Street or Ann Street on ramps to the Riverside Expressway and the Captain Cook Bridge.

For regular updates and information on public transport phone Transinfo: 13 12 30

Brisbane

CHOGM2001

Access for inner city residents and businesses

Vehicle access for residents living along controlled roads will be possible with an access pass displayed on their windscreen. Those who require an access pass for their vehicle should telephone 1800 023 126 for application details as soon as possible.

The Queensland Police Service will issue these vehicle access passes to enable residents to move through vehicle checkpoints around designated CHOGM venues.

Minor delays may be experienced during motorcade movements and residents are encouraged to arrange delivery of goods and services outside of the October 4 to 9 period. Where this is not possible, service and trades access for emergency situations will be available through vehicle checkpoints under Police direction.

Businesses along controlled roads should encourage staff to use public transport during the event. Applications for business vehicle access passes along these routes will be assessed on individual circumstances. Phone 1800 023 126 to obtain an application form if you consider such access is needed.

CHOGM Retreat – Hyatt Coolum Resort, Sunshine Coast

Heads of Government will participate in a Retreat from October 7 to 9 at the Hyatt Coolum Resort. Departing on Sunday afternoon and returning on Tuesday morning, the motorcade will travel via the Bruce Highway.

Rolling closures of the sections being travelled may cause some delays along this route and northbound and southbound traffic on the David Low Way may experience delays during motorcade movements. These delays should not exceed 30 minutes and possible timings will be advised closer to the event to allow commuters to better plan their journey.

Residents in Warran Road, adjacent to the Resort, could also experience some minor delays as motorcades enter and exit the Resort, and Yaroomba Beach at the Hyatt Coolum Resort will be closed to the public for the duration of the Retreat.

The Traffic Plan will remain active throughout the Retreat because delegates will still be meeting in Brisbane.

Business service issues

CBD businesses will be relatively unaffected by the event if deliveries and other commercial activities are planned in advance.

Businesses located on controlled roads are encouraged to arrange delivery schedules outside of the October 4 to 9 period.

Twenty-four hour Loading Zones will be identified within the CHOGM traffic precinct to assist CBD businesses with deliveries between October 4 to 9.

Where this is not possible, business deliveries, emergency access for trades or related services will be conducted in liaison with Police at vehicle checkpoints. These vehicles will undergo security checks and then be escorted to their destination.

All deliveries to designated CHOGM venues will be carried out via a secure warehouse facility only.

Security and courier services will need to revise their operations according to the changed traffic and security requirements, but footpath access will not be restricted.

Travel tips

- Public transport will be the easiest and most convenient mode of transport during October 4 to 9.
- Where possible avoid travel during peak periods and allow for potential delays when planning your journey.
- If crossing the city, use alternate routes such as the Story Bridge or Hale Street rather than travelling through the CBD.
- Businesses and organisations on controlled routes might consider staggered or more flexible work hours for staff between October 4 and 9.
- The best points of access to the Commonwealth People's Centre at the Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre, will be from South Brisbane Rail Station, South Bank Busway Station or via the western footpath on Victoria Bridge.
- Some city bus stops and routes will change during October 4 and 9. Phone Transinfo on 13 12 30 for details.
- Cyclists will have to dismount and walk across western footpath of the Victoria Bridge.

Introducing CHOGM Free Zone!

In response to the imposition of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) on Brisbane Oct 6-9, a number of local citizens have organised themselves in collective resistance known as 'CHOGM Free Zone'.

CHOGM Free Zone is an organising collective that operates by consensus, without hierarchies, leaders or executives. It takes direction from the actions and ideas of participants. It is a collective practising the ideals of anarchism, such as direct action, diversity and spontaneity of action, self-organisation, egalitarianism, cooperation and direct democracy, while emphasising actions of passive resistance. The objective of CHOGM Free Zone is to create a Free Zone in the streets of Brisbane for the duration of CHOGM.

CHOGM Free Zone is critical of CHOGM, for being an imperialist, exclusive, hierarchical forum that is composed of our political elites, our Heads of State. These politicians have divorced their actions in power from the empty rhetoric they express at the CHOGM. Human rights abuses, corruption and authoritarian practices are still rife in most of the governments represented at CHOGM. Poverty and homelessness is increasing in most of these same States. Many of the CHOGM politicians also promote sexism, homophobia and racism, in order to divide the community and weaken opposition to their economic strategies and their power.

The CHOGM '99 Fancourt Declaration clearly states that workers rights and environmental concerns should only be pursued in ways that do not impede 'free trade'. CHOGM has expressed unquestioning support for the World Trade Organisation (WTO), General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), and the absolute freedom of corporate capital. CHOGM 2001 is set to support the GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services).

CHOGM Free Zone does not believe we live in a true democracy. The media is not free, it is under the control of a small number of corporations, who practise systematic 'self-censorship'. Our political elites offer two parties with the same ideological platform. They have also demonstrated themselves quite able at rotting or fixing the electoral system to retain power.

The citizens of all Commonwealth nations are effectively excluded from societies political and economic structures. Governments are increasingly strengthening their powers of repression, while managing the economy for the benefit of multi-national corporations.

CHOGM Free Zone will resist CHOGM and these are some of our objectives:

- CHOGM Free Zone wants to free refugees from detention. Refugees are not illegal migrants.
- Make the Commonwealth a Nuclear Free Zone, no uranium mines, no radiation dumps, no irradiation plants, no nuclear weapons.
- CHOGM Free Zone supports self-determination and sovereignty for all indigenous peoples.
- CHOGM should disband and be replaced with an international federation of community and workers councils, based on direct democracy.
- All economic and political power should be transferred to the direct democratic control of the general population. No more lying politicians. No more greedy corporate executives.
- We want true freedom and autonomy in our lives. We want meaningful employment - full lives not just full employment. From each their ability, to everybody their needs.

CHOGM Free Zone meets weekly at 7pm Thursdays, at 264 Barry Parade, Fortitude Valley - underneath the 4Zz studios. We are committed to providing a space for individuals to come together to network ideas, share resources and organise autonomous actions. We aim to promote a diverse range of protests against CHOGM, that ALL oppressed peoples are part of, from the ground up. We can be contacted at chogmfreezone@hushmail.com or (07) 3844 4973.

CHOGM Free Zone website is at <http://www.freespeech.org/chogmfreezone>

Chant your own slogans - Organise your own affinity groups

There are no leaders here - We all create this movement - No vanguards required

What Is the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting?

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will be held in Brisbane Oct 6-9 at the Exhibition and Convention Centre, South Brisbane. This is a forum that will see most of the Heads of State or Prime Ministers of 52 Commonwealth nations meet once every two years. Queen Elizabeth opens the Meeting and makes a number of speeches, presentations and formal appearances.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was established as a replacement of the British Empire League, when the British unable to maintain control of their empire after World War 2. To quote the Qld state government, CHOGM is "the Commonwealth's ultimate international policy and decision making forum". It is not open to the public or the media, with all discussions and decisions made behind closed doors. All Commonwealth Heads of State have the equal opportunity to make speeches, debate and make decisions on various issues, particularly trade, investment and development.

Decisions are made by consensus, and are not enforced through any international body. However CHOGM can expel member nations or suspend their membership, which it has done so on a number of occasions. When CHOGM is over, a number of communiques, reports and statements are released to the public, to inform everyone of what went on.

As an example of these communiques, here is a quote from taken from the **Fancourt Declaration on Globalisation and People Centred Development**, released after CHOGM '99 in Durban, South Africa, and supported by all Commonwealth heads of Government.

"We fully believe in the importance of upholding labour standards and protecting the environment. But these must be addressed in an appropriate way that does not, by linking them to trade liberalisation, end up effectively impeding free trade".

This document goes on to say that the best way to eradicate poverty is to have complete economic liberalisation, including free flow of capital to (and from) poor nations, to have export driven economies for the poor nations, and to support the WTO and GATT.

In conjunction to CHOGM, a number of other forums have been created as a spin-off. These include a Youth Parliament, which is open to all youths of the Commonwealth who have been hand-picked by their governments; a "People's Festival" which is a first here at CHOGM 2001 but includes no forum for direct public participation; and most significantly the Commonwealth Business Forum.

The Commonwealth Business Forum will be held in Melbourne Oct 3-5, and is open to all corporate executives and government officials, who have been invited. Its purpose is similar to the World Economic Forum, that is to have a forum in which government and business leaders can discuss issues of trade, investment, and general economic issues. The Commonwealth Business Forum was first established in CHOGM '97, with the first meeting held in London.

Here is a quote from Tony Blair (UK Prime Minister) addressing this forum.

"I am a passionate believer in free trade and the Commonwealth should be a force for freer trade in the world. I hope at Edinburgh we will commit ourselves to working together in the World Trade Organisation, for further liberalisation of World Trade including the removal of non-tariff barriers."

There is nothing truly democratic about the functioning of CHOGM. Its entire organisation is politically elitist and exclusionist. The agenda is primarily concerned with supporting corporate profits, and building corporations a public infrastructure to help expanding their markets in the Commonwealth nations. All while CHOGM misleads and pacifies the local citizens, with empty declarations on supporting human rights, the environment, and democracy.

CHOGM FREE ZONE

Notes

